

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 505

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert William McGowan, Jr.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Robert William McGowan, Jr., a beloved college professor, dedicated naturalist and environmentalist, and World War II veteran; and

WHEREAS, a great lover and interpreter of nature, Mr. McGowan was the first naturalist to serve with Tennessee State Parks and was honored with the Distinguished Lifetime Service Award by the Tennessee Environmental Education Association in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGowan was a professor of General Ecology, Field Botany, and Ornithology at Memphis State College and received the Distinguished Teaching Award from that institution; he invariably taught his students to appreciate the wonders of our environment, and he inspired many of them to follow in his footsteps and become scientists or teachers themselves; and

WHEREAS, always eager to share his love of nature with others, Mr. McGowan wrote regular newspaper columns for the *Buffalo River Review* in Perry County and the *Bartlett Express* and authored a book about nature in Middle Tennessee, *Sounds of Carter Creek*; and

WHEREAS, a native of Paris, Tennessee, Mr. McGowan received his Bachelor of Arts from Lambuth College, where he was honored as a member of *Who's Who Among College Students* and from which he later received the Distinguished Alumni Award; he earned his Master of Arts from George Peabody College and also completed additional coursework at the University of Missouri, the University of Idaho, and the University of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. McGowan proudly served his country as a soldier with the Third U.S. Army in the European Theater under General George Patton and participated in the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGowan is survived by his wife of seventy-two years, Ellen Fossey McGowan; his daughter, Beth McGowan; two granddaughters, Laura (Dan) Moodie and Rachel (Justin) Dobbs; and a great-granddaughter, Jordan Elizabeth Moodie; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his son, Robert W. McGowan III, a victim of Agent Orange poisoning from his Army service in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember this gentleman who positively impacted many lives during his influential career as an educator and naturalist; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert William McGowan, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his legacy as a college professor, mentor of young people, and environmentalist who loved the great outdoors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Mr. McGowan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.